

Message Text

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SUBJ: SPACE AGREEMENT: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

REF: A. STATE 77298

B. MOSCOW 4397

C. STATE 71267

1. SCICOUNS MET WITH MR. VERESHCHETIN APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS LOCATION AND CHARACTER OF MEETINGS IN USSR IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A. THERE IS NO OFFICIAL ANSWER YET TO THE LAST TELEX AND THE EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS THAT INTERKOSMOS RECEIVED. THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS ARE LOOKING AT OTHER PLACES AND OTHER TIMES TO HOLD THE WORKING GROUP MEETING.

2. VERESHCHETIN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL VIEW: THERE NEVER WAS A GENERAL POLICY THAT ALL MEETINGS IN THE USSR SHOULD BE IN MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO VERESHCHETIN IT IS NOT UP TO NASA TO DICTATE WHERE THE MEETING IS TO TAKE PLACE. INTERKOSMOS HAS NEVER PUT UP AN ARGUMENT WHETHER TO MEET IN WASHINGTON, HOUSTON OR SAN FRANCISCO. THE SELECTION OF BAKU WAS MADE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: BECAUSE OF THE LATENESS WITH WHICH JAFFE RESPONDED AND BECAUSE OF THE EXTREMELY BUSY SCHEDULE THAT INTERKOSMOS HAS THIS APRIL AND MAY, BAKU OFFERED THE ADVANTAGES OF EASY HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AS WELL AS SAVING OF MONEY FOR THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, SINCE A LOCAL ACADEMY WILL PICK UP THE TAB IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. A NEW SPECIAL RESEARCH CENTER ON SPACE AND SEA RESEARCH WAS PLANNED

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TO BE VISITED. NOW THE APRIL VISIT HAS BEEN CANCELED. THE

PROSPECTS OF A MEETING IN MAY AND POSSIBLY EVEN JUNE ARE EXTREMELY DIM. VERESHCHETIN WILL HAVE TO GET BACK TO NASA WITH A COUNTERPROPOSAL AT A LATER TIME. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT MONEY CAN BE SAVED BY NOT STAYING IN THE ROSSIYA, WHICH IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE HOTEL TO NASA. OTHER PLACES SUCH AS THE ACADEMY HOTEL ON LENINSKIY PROSPEKT WOULD COST LESS.

3. SCICOUNS QUERIED VERESHCHETIN ON THE ABORTION OF THE LAST SOYUZ MISSION. VERESHCHETIN SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW MUCH MORE THAN WHAT APPEARED IN THE TASS ANNOUNCEMENT. HE ASSURED SCICOUNS THAT THE MISSION WAS IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH ASTP AND THAT ALL COSMONAUTS ARE BACK SAFELY. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE MISSION WAS CONNECTED WITH THE SALYUT SPACE STATION.

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